GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:427
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
SALE OF ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES THROUGH PDS IN STATES
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

to state:

(a) the names of additional commodities distributed through Public Distribution System during the year 2000 in each of the States;

(b) whether in view of the collapsing Public Distribution System the Government propose to increase ration items in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) Central Government makes available five essential commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil and kerosene generally at subsidized rates to the State/ Governments/UTAdministrations for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS)State Governments are also distributing items of daily use in addition to the above five items. The Government of India does not maintain on a regular basis the list of additional items being distributed by the State Governments/ UT Administrations through the PDS.

(b) & (c) : The State Governments have been advised that Fair Price Shop owners should be encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through PDS outlets to improve the viability of Fair Price Shops through increased turnover. Distribution of additional items of daily use as per local requirement will also help making articles of daily use easily available to ordinary consumers.

With the objective of making available quality consumer goods at affordable prices and to improve the viability of Fair Price Shops apart from containing inflation, a scheme titled `Sarvapriya` has been launched. The scheme envisages distribution of eleven selected commodities of daily use namely, arhar dal, gram dal, malka red, urad whole, salt, tea, toilet soaps, detergent cakes, exercise note books, edible oil and toothpaste on no profit no loss basis. This is a voluntary scheme optional to the State Governments.